

# Blaxhall Village Newsletter



Spring 2019

## Winter Memories, Summer Plans ...

### From the Editor

Just a quick note to say I hope everybody finds something of interest in our spring newsletter, and, most importantly, a very big thanks to my predecessor Maggie Jennings for her unheralded work in producing this newsletter over the last 5 years, as well as continuing to provide some great material such as the content for The Ship page. I've yet to complete my first newsletter, but have already realised the time and effort required!

As ever, we're extremely keen to hear about your news, events, or receive photos of beautiful Blaxhall as we move through spring and into summer, so if you'd like to contribute please send your news, dates or pics to [shane@blaxhall.com](mailto:shane@blaxhall.com)

Blaxhall's Christmas party is now fading into memory, but music continues at the Ship and we have Blaxhall Festival to look forward to!

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Easter will soon be here and there are the usual services at St Peter's. On **Good Friday (19<sup>th</sup> April)** there will be the solemn 'Cross of Christ' service at 6.30pm. On **Easter Sunday (21<sup>st</sup> April)** the service of Holy Communion is at 11.00am. All will be most welcome to attend these services and Refreshments will be served after the service on Easter Sunday.

As the daylight gets longer and summer approaches it's also time to start thinking about the **Blaxhall Festival. This year it is to be held over the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June**, 11am-5pm



each day, with a 'Songs of Praise' service at 11.00am on the 23rd. As well as the Flower Festival, music and a multitude of other activities in the Church and Churchyard, the Art Club will be holding their (selling) Exhibition in the Village Hall. All of this, of course needs significant planning and a Planning Meeting is to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Whatever your talents or skills they can be put to good use, so please come along if you'd like to help.

For those who tend graves in the Churchyard there is a new water supply (see photo, left). The old storage tank at the rear of the Church has been making the wall very damp and has been discontinued. Instead there is a new standpipe just west of the Tower, for use by those needing water for grave flowers, etc.

## Upcoming Dates

April 8, Monday, 7.30pm, Blaxhall Festival planning meeting, Village Hall

April 19, Good Friday, 6.30pm, Cross of Christ, Church

April 20, Holy Saturday, tbc, Easter Garden, Church

April 21, Easter Day, 11am, Easter Day Communion, Church

June 22 & 23, Saturday and Sunday, 11am to 5pm, Blaxhall Festival weekend, Church and churchyard

June 23, Sunday, 11am, Songs of Praise, Church

June 30, Sunday, 10am, Patronal Service, Church

August 17, Saturday, 2.30pm to 4.00pm, Blaxhall Village Fete, Village Hall and playing field





## New PC Members

The present Parish Council Term of Office terminates in May. There are currently three vacancies on the Parish Council.

NOBODY cares more about your community than you and your local council do!

If you think you could play a part in representing the interests of Blaxhall and improve the quality of life and the local environment you might like to get involved through the Parish Council.

Planning, Highways, Traffic, Community Safety, Common, Housing, Footpaths, Recreation Ground and a great deal more.

Nominations have now closed for the May elections, with the disappointing outcome that fewer than 9 people will be standing, meaning there will be a co-option at the July and September PC meetings. If you think you could fill

a vacant post and help shape the village please put yourself forward by emailing [blaxhallparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:blaxhallparishclerk@gmail.com).

## Sizewell C Stage 3 Consultation

Feedback is currently being requested from all local PCs for the stage 3 consultation into Sizewell C, which includes the appearance of a new, road-led transport approach. This would require an extended road-building programme to accommodate some 750 HGVs per day, as opposed to 450 for the rail-led strategy, and involve stretching HGV operating hours beyond the 7am-11pm window of the rail-led approach. You can see in-depth information and have your say on the Sizewell C website. The Parish Council, meanwhile, discussed the options at March's meeting, concluding that overall the rail-led strategy was the least undesirable for Blaxhall and have submitted a response to that effect.

# The Ship



Another great season at The Ship.....so much to see, hear, and take part in, it is difficult to know what to tell you! There is traditional, folk, modern music, great company, good food, beer, and wines.....and a sloping floor, so be careful!!!



On New Years Eve, John and Dave, entertained us with a superb few .... or many, hours of good music. We danced and danced, sang along, and had a thoroughly good time. On New Years Day, sadly, Mo, of Buckshee was not well, and unable to sing....what a thing to happen to The ship! They are a tradition on New Years Day, but this was to be their last, as they are moving on to other things, but it could not be helped. So, at the last minute, Ant McAndrew stepped in.....well....poor chap!!!! A heaving pub, fit to bursting! A different music experience all together. But, he very quickly realised what The Ship was expecting for

New Years Day, and gave us a most wonderful afternoon. We danced and danced until early evening, to Ant, thank you so much, you made a lot of people very, very happy.

Buckshee, once Mo was well, returned for their final event at The Ship.....what a wonderful day that was. Again, the pub was fit to bursting. Very sad, emotional afternoon, after so many years with buckshee....see photos.....but also great memories, thank you Mo and Mick.

Of course, we must not forget all else that The ship offers!.... accommodation, a fantastic breakfast.....and of course after The Blaxhall Sessions in the Village Hall, a wonderful impromptu session with the folk musicians, and singers, down at the pub....till all hours!

One Sunday in March, we saw Mick alone, calling himself "Buckmee", another superb afternoon, bits of folk, old sing-a-longs, Latin and much more....a long encore and a lot of dancing. Mo joined in too...when she wasn't dancing with us!

Look on the Ship's website, to see what is going on in our wonderful village....we are lucky, in such a small village, to have such a super pub! Watch out for the Busk Nights, and special events, keep an eye on Facebook.



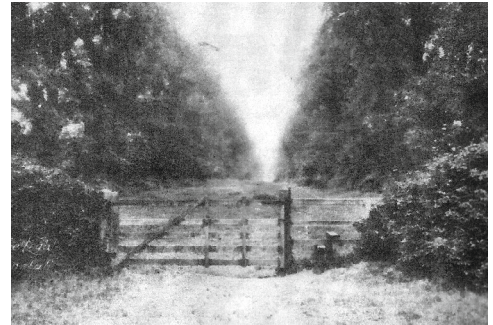


# History



Most of us will be familiar with the view in the left hand photo, it's a very long, narrow field on the road from Blaxhall to Tunstall known as 'The Light'. Older residents, who's memories reach back to the 1940s or 50s may remember the field being lined each side with lime trees, as can be seen in the picture below from around the 1920s, and those trees are the clue to The Light's true heritage. Turn back the clock 200 years and instead of an odd shaped field you'd have been greeted by a magnificent mile-long driveway leading to Campsea Ashe High House, an elaborate four-storey pile that stood for some 400 years. It's

origins lie with father and son John and William Glover, who created the house and surrounding park over several decades in the late 16th century, after which it spent many years in the hands of the Sheppard family before William Lowther MP bought it in 1883. His son, the Viscount Ullswater (Speaker of the House of Commons) was to be the last owner to continue improving and developing the house and gardens, his death in 1949 led the estate being broken up and the house being pulled down in 1953.



Returning to The Light, it is occasionally heard from a local, old Suffolk voice that it was once possible to see along the avenue and all the way to Aldeburgh from the top of the house, which may at first seem a little far fetched, especially given the presence of a thick grove directly opposite the gateway - as can be seen in the aerial image below and 1930s pic on the right - not to mention the

sprawling forestry plantations beyond. Those forestry plantations are only 75 years old, however, and were largely preceded by open common. That still leaves the much older grove opposite the gateway to throw a spanner in the works, that is until you happen to be browsing a 1770s map and notice a wide groove cut



straight through that grove (below). A quick investigation with a ruler further reveals that a line of sight straight down The Light and through the gap leads directly to Iken church, and beyond it ..... Aldeburgh. Suddenly it all makes sense, an unusually tall house, built on the highest

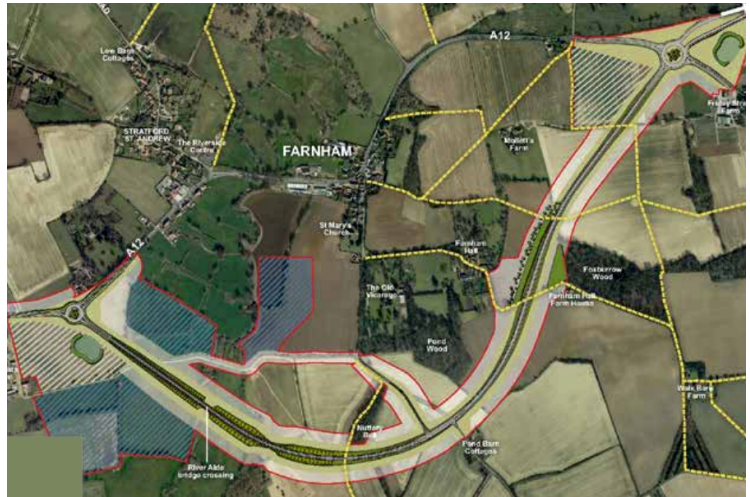
ground for miles around, complete with cupola from where the residents could watch for the arrival of tall-masted sailing ships bearing family, friends and exotic produce from distant lands. It's amazing how quickly the environment around us can change, which is perhaps all the more reason we shouldn't always dismiss those hand-me-down stories as old wives tales, there's often a grain of truth to be unearthed ...



## Four Village Bypass

Whilst all has been largely quiet on the bypass front for several months now, following the DfT's rejection of the funding proposal for SCC's original plan as widely discussed in late 2017, there is news that a new decision is likely around May, which could either uphold that rejection or lead to approval.

The developing situation with Sizewell C is inevitably interlinked with the 4VBP, although EDF are only proposing a much shorter bypass (above) of Farnham and Stratford St. Andrew, which would meet the current A12 at a new roundabout close to the present Park Gate Farm junction and merge with the planned route of the 4VBP near Pond Barn Cottages in Farnham. On the surface this would appear less detrimental to Blaxhall, but the general view is that SCC would use EDF's financing for that section and still attempt to raise funds to complete their original four village project. As the old saying goes, watch this space!



## Electricity Poles

Some of you will have noticed UK Power Networks replacing several poles and cables around the village, this is part of an ongoing upgrade programme of older sections of infrastructure. Wooden poles are routinely tested every 10 years and can last a century or more in the right conditions, but if you are aware of a pole that is leaning, rotten or otherwise dangerous please contact UKPN on **0800 3163105**.

## Free Bus Passes

SCC recently circulated the below information to local PCs for distribution to villagers. I stand to be corrected, but as I understand it, they're saying that because you currently can't use your free bus pass everywhere they're going to make things fairer in future by ensuring you can't use it anywhere ...

Connecting Communities services operate in all Suffolk Districts. In recognition of the local diversity of our county districts, the community transport service operators have varied transport offers. This means that since they launched in 2016 not all services have been able to accept ENCTS (English National Concessionary Travel Scheme) free travel bus passes.

We want Suffolk residents to have equality on costs for all passengers and consistency on the use of travel bus passes as there is no statutory requirement to give free travel for pre-booked seats. So, from 1 April 2019 all Connecting Communities passengers will be charged fares, and free bus passes will no longer be accepted. The good news is that fares will not be increased this year; we will ensure they remain affordable in line with local bus services.

## Motocross - Footpath

Woodbridge and District Motorcycle club would like to inform residents that "Footpath No 6 IP12 2DX Blaxhall Suffolk. From Stone Common to Farnham Road Rail Crossing" will be closed on the following dates in the interests of safety, due to motorcycle events taking place.

Sunday 7th April  
Saturday 1st June & Sunday 2nd June  
Sunday 7th July  
Sunday 28th July  
Sunday 1st September.

## Abandoned Car

A burnt out car was discovered in the big pit towards the middle of Blaxhall common last month. Removal has been instigated and the police informed, but the story behind its arrival or how it gained access to the common is yet to be forthcoming.



## BCOS

All residents should hopefully have received the recent Blaxhall Commons and Open Spaces Trust newsletter, so we'll keep to a quick summary here. The big news is that the Trust has received a generous donation in the form of some 6 acres of land adjoining Blaxhall Common, for the benefit of both wildlife and residents.

Meanwhile, their extensive tree planting projects continue as do regular litter picks, helping to keep the village green, clean and a generally nice place to live.

If you missed out on the newsletter and would like a copy in PDF or printed format please email [shane@blaxhall.com](mailto:shane@blaxhall.com).

## Blaxhall Sessions

After a highly popular first season, that began last October, the final Blaxhall Sessions performance of the current run takes place in the village hall at 7pm on Friday 12th April. The performer this time around is much lauded Irish folk musician Daori Farrell. If you'd like to book, or for more information, visit [www.http://folkeast.co.uk/daori-farrell/](http://folkeast.co.uk/daori-farrell/)

## Blaxhall Festival 2019

As mentioned on the Church page, Blaxhall Festival 2019 will be upon us in just over two months, so if you'd like to help, whether it be welcoming visitors, arranging flowers, catering, making music, planning or manning games and activities, putting up the marquees, or selling plants and produce do please attend the planning meeting. If you see yourself as more of a visitor be sure to keep the weekend free and cross your fingers and toes for good weather, as the images remind us it's not only a chance to enjoy the art, crafts, and flowers on display, but also the perfect opportunity to catch up with people, especially those residents who've moved on but can't resist returning for our Festival and Fete!





## Parish Councillors

Graham Bowles	01728 688192 (Chairman)	Karen Baker	01728 688200
Shane Pictor	01728 688205	Ray Herring	01728 746337
Jeff Hume	01728 688430	Mark Oakley	01728 687507
Joanne Peters	01394 459400 ( Parish Clerk)	Maggie Jennings	01728 687689

Suffolk Coastal District Councillor - Ray Herring 07885 249218

[ray.herring@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:ray.herring@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

Suffolk County Councillor - Andrew Reid 07545 423799 [andrew.reid@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.reid@suffolk.gov.uk)

Copies of minutes and agendas can be found at <http://blaxhall.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>

**Parish Council** meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.30 and are open to all parishioners, the public and press. remaining 2019 dates are : **Wednesday 8th May ( Annual General Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting)**, Wednesday 3rd July, Wednesday 4th September , Wednesday 6th November.

**Community Transport** – “Connecting Communities” **01728 635938** The service booking line operates 08.45am to 4pm, Mon-Fri

**Blaxhall Commons & Open Spaces Charitable Trust** – [www.blaxhallcommonstrust.org](http://www.blaxhallcommonstrust.org)  
For contact details of all trustees ring Mark Oakley 01728 687507

The **Mobile Library** comes to Blaxhall, and stops at **The Youth Hostel 9.35 – 10am** calling every 4 weeks on Wednesdays: **2019 dates: 10 April, 8 May, 5 June, 3 July, 31 July, 28 August, 25 September, 23 October, 20 November, 18 December.**

Large print, Audio & Childrens' books, also CDs and DVDs are available for a small charge. Contact Pete Wells or Helen Hudson on [help@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto:help@suffolklibraries.co.uk), visit the website <http://suffolkreads.onesuffolk.net/libraries-and-mobiles/> or phone **01473 584563**

**To put something in the Village Noticeboard**, please ring Graham Bowles 01728 688192  
To put something in the Newsletter email to [shane@blaxhall.com](mailto:shane@blaxhall.com) tel.01728 688205

**Allotment information** contact Mercedes Oakley On 07771 895044,  
[mercoakley@gmail.com](mailto:mercoakley@gmail.com)

**Deadline for next Newsletter - 13<sup>th</sup> July**